





During the last ten days there have been very heavy rains, and it was hoped that the weather would be more favourable, as there was hardly any fall yesterday, but to-day and last night clouds opened again. The damage to the rice crops of millet, peas, beans, etc., has been so great so much so that the demand for husked rice and other goods has quite stopped, and business generally is quiet. Many native houses of some foreign dwellers have become uninhabitable on account of the walls and roofs falling. There will be, I think, a very serious famine in the Chinese who are helpless and destitute. I have learned that the downpours of rain are very unusual. For the last few days there has been no flood tide in the river owing to the freshets, and vessels have been waiting to the east only the whole day, although the water rose about one mile over the Bund bridges have given way, and if the bad weather continues, there will be no means of communicating with the interior except by boats. Now, owing to the inundated state of the country, I have sold millet and other kinds, regardless of the price, to get away. At present, the water is high, raising the river deeper than it should be. While the city is like can only be imagined. For some days the only foreign built-up in port was the Chinese man-of-war *Howay*, which is partly owned by Englishmen. No small German gunboat has arrived, but there is some uncertainty as to whether they were reported on board is dangerous or not, as the sailors having been landed and placed in temporary hospital.







